

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Raymond Ryals, a/k/a "Raycat," DOB: 10/02/74, Beloit, Wisconsin, was found guilty of distributing crack cocaine yesterday following a one-day jury trial in federal court in Madison.

At the trial, the government proved that on April 4, 2006, on Porter Avenue in Beloit, Ryals distributed one ounce of crack cocaine to an individual who was working with the police. Ryals and 22 other individuals were indicted on May 10, 2006, for their involvement in the distribution of narcotics in Rock County.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for December 19, 2006. Ryals faces a minimum penalty of ten years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The charge against Ryals was the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Beloit Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the State Line Area Narcotics Team (SLANT), the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigations - Narcotics Bureau. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.